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5. *Reduction of the rate of assessment for Puduval lands.*

Mr. Vareethu Eippa (Member, Thodupuzha Taluk) stated that the Government had ruled that *Puduval* lands newly registered should be assessed to tax at the rate of not less than five fanams per acre. But till 1084 M. E., the tax per acre was only seven chackrams. The lands in the Thodupuzha taluk, being mostly jungle tracts, were cultivated only once in 8 or 10 years, and the rate of assessment on the cultivated lands was 8 chackrams per 128 *perukams*. Even if these lands were cultivated once in 6 years, the tax to the Government at the enhanced rate came to 30 fanams per acre, leaving an income to the owner of only about 6 paras of paddy. This amount did not come to more than half the tax paid to the Government. Subsequent to the enhancement of the rate of assessment, no applicants were coming forward for the registry of new lands, and remissions of taxes were also on the increase. Another grievance of the people was that they were asked to pay the value of trees of less than 8 *vannams*. Considering the above difficulties in the enjoyment of lands at present, the Member prayed that lands situated more than half a mile from inhabited areas and used for hill cultivation might be classed as *Cherikal* lands and ordered to be registered as such in accordance with the Proceedings of the Government, dated 20th December 1909, and that if this arrangement could not be sanctioned permanently, such registries might at least be allowed within a time to be fixed for the purpose.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

6. *Registry of shop-sites in the Kayancolam market.*

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Kayancolam Trading Classes) requested that the shop-sites in the Kayencolam market might be registered in the names of the present holders on *pandarapattom*, without insisting on the condition that they should be handed over to the Government whenever required without claiming compensation for the same.

Dewan's reply.—Orders are under issue to register the shop-sites on *pandarapattom*, as desired by the Member.

7. *Abolition of the water cess on the lands to be benefited by the Chalakalpadom canal.*

Mr. Kannakku Athichan Athichan (Member, Changanacherry Taluk) said that the rate of water cess proposed to be levied on the lands that would be benefited by the Chalakalpadom canal in the Changanacherry taluk was very high. The cess should therefore be done away with altogether, but if that was not possible, a nominal cess might be levied. Further, the list that had been prepared

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of the lands to be served by the canal was not exhaustive. A revised list, including *all* the lands, should be caused to be prepared, and the interest to be recovered then rateably distributed among all the lands.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar is enquiring into the matter and the Member's representations will be considered when the Peishkar's report is received.

8. Grant of Venthazhivu and Tharisu remissions for the lands under the Thovala channel.

Mr. Ibrahim Pillai Syed Mahomed (Member, Nominated) said that, owing to the poverty of the soil, the crops died out in the case of certain lands under the Thovala channel. The ryots used to call this *venthazhivu*. Remissions for *venthazhivu* and *tharisu* were being granted for the *puravus* under the Pazhayar for a long time past. It was true that such remissions were not hitherto granted for the lands under the Thovala channel, but that was because the latter were not taken up for cultivation, owing to the want of water facilities. Water was now available and the ryots were taking up such lands for cultivation. The Member prayed therefore that the lands under the Thovala channel might be allowed remissions for *venthazhivu* and *tharisu*, as were allowed in the case of the lands under the Pazhayar. There would be about 200 acres of such lands requiring the concession.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

9. Restoration of the bunds of paddy fields, irrigation tanks, channels &c., in the interests of the agriculturists.

Mr. Krishnan Easwaren (Member, Nedumangad Taluk) said that sufficient lands had not been set apart for the use of the ryots for taking manure and for grazing their cattle. The few lands that were set apart here and there were practically useless. He therefore suggested that the *Poramboke* lands adjoining paddy fields and all other unregistered lands in convenient places might be set apart as manure and grazing grounds, free of all interference by the Forest Department.

The Member said that the next point he wished to bring to the notice of the Government was that most of the irrigation tanks and channels were silted up and some of them had also been registered. These latter should be acquired and the tanks and channels restored to their original condition. A few aqueducts were also necessary in some channels for diverting water to the lands having no irrigation tanks. These should also be provided. A portion of the amount spent in restoring the irrigation sources and maintaining them annually might be recovered from the ryots and the balance met by the Government.

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